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DEPARTMENT FOR OES/OFA/OPA, EAP/J

USDOC FOR NOAA ADMINISTRATOR DR. JOHN BYRNE AND FOR
NOAA/NMFS TO PASS TO F/M321, F/M2

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: EFIS, JA, IWC-1

SUBJECT: JAPAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION DISCUSSES
FISHERIES ISSUES WITH CONGRESSMAN BREAUX

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT).

2. SUMMARY. OFFICIALS OF JAPAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION TELL U.S. CONGRESSMAN JOHN BREAUX THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TARGET LEVELS OF ALLOCATIONS IN JANUARY SO JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY CAN RELY ON JANUARY FIGURE TO DEVELOP AN ANNUAL COMPANY FISHING PLAN. JFA ALSO WANTS READJUSTMENTS IN BY-CATCH ALLOCATIONS AND GIVES CONGRESSMAN A 14-PAGE DOCUMENT REGARDING JAF POSITION ON USG/GOJ FISHERIES ISSUES. PRESIDENT OF JAPAN WHALING ASSOCIATION INDICATES THAT ANTARCTIC WHALERS WOULD FOLLOW GOJ RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHEN TO START THE COMING WHALING SEASON AND BREAUX AIDE LEARNS THAT COASTAL WHALERS WOULD ACCEPT A 5-7 DAY DELAY IN OCTOBER. JFA OFFICIALS ARE CRITICAL OF USG PLANS TO DEVELOP U.S. FISHERIES "TOO RAPIDLY".
END SUMMARY.

3. ON AUGUST 23, REPRESENTATIVE JOHN BREAUX AND STAFF AIDES TIM SMITH AND GLENN DELANEY MET WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN FISHERIES ASSOCIATION (JFA) TOMOYOSHI KAMENAGA, AND TWO OTHER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND TEN MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION. ALSO AT THE MEETING WERE SALLY J. CAMPEN OF TELE-PRESS ASSOCIATES (JFA'S WASHINGTON AGENTS: 7512 AMBERGATE PLACE, MCLEAN, VIRGINIA), ECDUNS, REGFISHATT AND REGFISHATT ECONSPEC. COMPLETE ATTENDANCE LIST WILL BE MAILED TO OES/OFA, EAP/J AND F/M321 IN REGFISHATT'S WEEKLY MAILING ON AUGUST 30.

4. JFA DISTRIBUTED A 14 PAGE POSITION PAPER (NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT WAS SENT TO OES/OFA, EAP/J AND F/M321 IN WEEKLY MAILING OF REGFISHATT ON AUGUST 23) AND PRESIDENT KAMENAGA MADE FURTHER COMMENTS REGARDING ITS CONTENT TO CONGRESSMAN BREAUX. KAMENAGA EMPHASIZED THAT THE JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY WOULD LIKE THE USG TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A TARGET LEVEL OF ALLOCATIONS

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EACH JANUARY SO REALLOCATIONS IN APRIL AND JULY WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE ORIGINAL ANNOUNCEMENT. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD ALLOW THE INDUSTRY TO PREPARE A YEAR-ROUND FISHING PLAN THAT WOULD AVOID THE UNCERTAINTIES ASSOCIATED WITH MIDSEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS. (SEE PAGE 7 OF JFA DOCUMENT). HE ALSO ADDED TO THE WRITTEN COMMENTS ASKING FOR READJUSTMENTS OF BY-CATCH ALLOCATIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT FULL UTILIZATION OF TARGET SPECIES SUCH AS POLLOCK. HE NOTED THAT BY-CATCH RESTRICTIONS FORCE POLLOCK FISHING TO CEASE WHEN ONLY 70 PER CENT OF THE POLLOCK QUOTA HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. CONGRESSMAN BREAUX AGREED WITH KAMENAGA'S REMARKS CONCERNING THE TIMING OF RELEASES AND SAID THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE CONSIDERED DURING THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF THE MAGNUSON FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT (MFCMA) THAT WAS SCHEDULED FOR 1985. HE PROPOSED THAT SUCH CHANGES IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY FAVORABLE GOJ CONSIDERATION FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATIVE BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE U.S. INDUSTRY, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE PRESENT TARIFF AND IMPORT QUOTA SITUATION, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS.

5. REPRESENTATIVE BREAUX REFERRED TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE WHALING ISSUE AND THE CERTAINTY OF CERTIFICATION UNDER THE PACKWOOD AMENDMENT TO THE MFCMA IF GOJ ALLOWED WHALING TO PROCEED CONTRARY TO RECENT DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (IWC). HE MENTIONED HIS MEETING WITH DIET MEMBERS EARLIER IN THE DAY (SEPT-EL) AND SAID HE CONCURRED WITH SENATOR KAMENAGA'S SUGGESTION THAT A POSSIBLE USG/GOJ WHALE SCIENTISTS MEETING IN SEPTEMBER COULD BE FOLLOWED UP BY A MEETING OF DIET MEMBERS AND CONGRESSMEN INVOLVED IN FISHERIES ISSUES. HE REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT GOJ AND THE JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY SHOULD DELAY ANY WHALING ACTIONS THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS CONTRARY TO IWC REGULATIONS UNTIL AFTER THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS IN THE U.S. HE ASKED THE JFA MEMBERS IF THEY COULD ACCEPT SUCH A DELAY. MR. MOTONOBU INAGAKI, PRESIDENT OF THE JAPAN WHALING ASSOCIATION, REPLIED THAT ANY DELAY SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN USG AND GOJ OFFICIALS

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BUT THAT THE WHALING INDUSTRY IN JAPAN "WOULD BE PREPARED TO FOLLOW GOJ ADVICE EVEN THOUGH A DELAY WOULD HAVE ADVERSE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES." SENATOR KAMENAGA INTERJECTED THAT HE HAD RESERVATIONS THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DELAY THE START OF JAPANESE WHALING AND THE DISCUSSION ON WHALING WAS CONCLUDED. HOWEVER, LATER IN THE DAY, BREAUX COUNSEL TIM SMITH WAS TOLD THAT INAGAKI WAS ONLY SPEAKING FOR ANTARCTIC WHALING OPERATIONS AND THE COASTAL FLEET COULD NOT ACCEPT MORE THAN 5-7 DAY DELAY.

6. JFA PRESIDENT KAMENAGA THEN REITERATED JFA CONCERN THAT THE USG WAS PUSHING TO DEVELOP EEZ FISHERIES TOO RAPIDLY. (SEE PAGE 10 OF JFA DOCUMENT). REPRESENTATIVE BREAUX AGREED WITH KAMENAGA REGARDING JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS, THOUGH BREAUX STATED PRESENT JOINT VENTURES "WERE IMPORTANT AND MUST

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BE CONTINUED". BREAUX COMMENTED THAT IF MUTUAL COOPERATIVE BUSINESS VENTURES AND INVESTMENTS COULD BE DESIGNED TO INCREASE U.S. FISHING CAPACITY, THEN THE COOPERATING JAPANESE FIRMS WOULD BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW MARKETS THAT WOULD BE OPENED IN THE U.S. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN U.S. SURIMI PLANTS WOULD GIVE JAPAN ACCESS TO U.S. MARKETS.

7. SHUNICH OHKUCHI, PRESIDENT OF NIHON SUISAN COMPANY, EXPRESSED DOUBTS REGARDING U.S. ABILITY TO PRODUCE SURIMI ATXAXQUALITY THAT WOULD BE COMPETITIVE. HE POINTED OUT THE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFERENCE IN QUALITY BETWEEN AT-SEA PROCESSING AND SHORE-BASED SURIMI PLANTS. HE AND OFFICERS OF NICHIRO FISHERIES AND KYOKUYO FISHERIES SAID THEIR COMPANIES RELIED SOLELY ON AT-SEA PRODUCTION TO ASSURE GOOD QUALITY. REPRESENTATIVE BREAUX RESPONDED THAT THE U.S. COULD UTILIZE DOMESTIC MARKETS AND JAPANESE PRODUCERS COULD CONTINUE THEIR MARKETING IN JAPAN. JIRO IKENAGA, PRESIDENT OF NICHIRO FISHERIES ADDED THAT HIGH COSTS WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR U.S. PRODUCERS TO RELY ON AT-SEA PRODUCTION.

MANSFIELD
END OF MESSAGE

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